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***SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD***

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

December 2, 2002

Mr. David Coburn  
Steptoe & Johnson, LLP  
1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036-1795

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34284 – Proposed Rail Line Construction in  
Medina County, Texas – Request for Approval of Third-Party Consultant

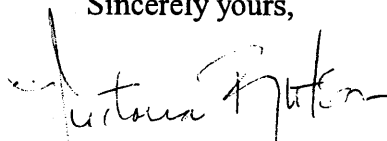
Dear Mr. Coburn:

Your letter dated November 26, 2002, requesting approval under 49 CFR 1105.10(d) for retention of URS Corporation of Austin, Texas (URS) as an independent third-party consultant for this project is approved. You indicate that Ms. Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek of URS will head an URS team to prepare the appropriate environmental document on behalf of the Surface Transportation Board (Board) in connection with Vulcan Materials Company's proposal to construct and operate a new rail line in Medina County, Texas.

We have attached a disclosure statement that we ask you to forward to Ms. Zyman-Ponebshek to complete. Once the statement is signed by Ms. Zyman-Ponebshek, we would ask that Ms. Zyman-Ponebshek send it directly to us. As we discussed, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis will direct, supervise, review, and approve all environmental documents prepared by the independent third-party consultant.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact me or Rini Ghosh of my staff at (202) 565-1539.

Sincerely yours,



Victoria Rutson

Chief

Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure